

**TESTIMONY OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) OF CONNECTICUT  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
March 20, 2013**

**COMMENT TO IMPROVE**

**S.B. No. 6594 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES AND DEFINITIONS OF  
"NURSING HOME FACILITY" AND "MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE"**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Sara Frankel and I am the Public Policy Director for Children, Youth and Young Adults with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Connecticut. NAMI Connecticut is the state affiliate of NAMI, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for all those affected by mental illness. NAMI Connecticut offers support groups, educational programs, and advocacy for improved services, more humane treatment and an end to stigma and economic and social discrimination. We represent individuals who actually live with mental illness and parents and family members of individuals living with mental illness.

I am here today on behalf of NAMI Connecticut to comment on proposed Senate Bill 6594 An Act Concerning Residential Care Homes and Definitions of "Nursing Home Facility" and "Medical Review Committee."

S.B. 6594 clarifies the roles of residential care homes. Subsection (22) of Section 32 of the proposed bill applies the patients' bill of rights concerning transfer or discharge rights to individuals admitted to nursing facilities (referencing 19a-535) or chronic disease hospitals (referencing 19a-535b). **NAMI Connecticut recommends that Subsection (22) of Section 32 of the proposed bill be amended to also include reference to 19a-535a so that the patients' bill of rights concerning transfer and discharge rights also apply to individuals in residential care homes as well as individuals in nursing facilities and chronic disease hospitals.**